

## STATE TO PREVENT INFANT BLINDNESS

**Health Commissioner Dixon Says  
 One-Third of the Cases of  
 Blindness Can be Pre-  
 vented.**

### MOTHER SHOULD CALL DOCTOR

**Old Law to Be Enforced That Will  
 Secure Proper Treatment For  
 New-Born Infants and Save  
 Loss of Eyesight.**

To guard new-born infants against that terrible misfortune, blindness, State Health Commissioner Dixon has revived a state law passed some years ago for just this object, but never enforced to any extent. This law, passed June 23, 1895, is entitled "An act for the prevention of blindness, imposing a duty upon all midwives, nurses or other persons having the care of infants, and also upon the health officer, and fixing a penalty for neglect thereof."

Dr. Dixon declared today "that if the provisions of this law are carried out there is reason to hope that one-third of the cases of blindness which so greatly diminishes the productive value of the individual and too often renders him a burden on society may be prevented."

**Letter to Physicians.**  
 To ten thousand physicians throughout Pennsylvania Health Commissioner Dixon is sending the following letter:

"You are probably aware of the fact that the American Medical Association at its last annual meeting authorized the issue of the report of the committee on ophthalmia neonatorum, which forcibly called attention to the fact that a very large percentage of the cases of blindness which the state is called upon to support is caused by that disease, and urged the necessity for organized and concerted effort on the part of the profession in all of the states of the Union to diminish this evil. That this appeal is most timely is sufficiently indicated by a recent report from the Pennsylvania School for the Blind, which shows that in the past eight years more than one-third of the persons admitted to that institution have owed their affliction to this cause.

"This department has, therefore, thought it desirable to revive a law which has for many years lain dormant on our statute books, and a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

"Inasmuch, however, as I doubt the wisdom of entrusting the treatment of so delicate an organ as the eye to unskilled hands, I have appended to the law instructions making it the duty of the health officer to urge those in charge to secure the services of a physician at the earliest possible moment after the discovery of the disease, and have suggested a harmless cleansing solution to be used until such time as the physician could arrive and institute the active treatment for which the nitrate of silver or some other silver salt will probably be deemed most effective. May I hope for your assistance in carrying out this plan for diminishing a fertile cause of misery and disability?"

### Instructions to Health Officers.

The state department of health has sent to each of its 730 township health officers full instructions as to their duty under the law. These instructions are as follows:  
 "In order to carry out the provisions of the above law it becomes your duty to acquaint yourself with the names and addresses of all midwives and nurses residing or practicing in your district, and to place a copy of the law in the hands of each, instructing her as to its requirements.  
 "Immediately on receiving notification from a midwife or nurse of the occurrence of a case of red or swollen eyes in a young infant you will inform the attending physician of the fact and will place in the hands of the midwife or nurse the accompanying instructions, explaining that she is to follow them only until a physician arrives to take charge of the case. If no physician has been employed, you will urge upon the family the necessity for obtaining one, as otherwise the child may become permanently blind."  
 Here is the prescription given for treating inflamed eyes in new-born infants until the physician arrives:  
 "To one pint of boiled water add two teaspoonfuls of boric acid and half a teaspoonful of table salt and keep covered in a jar which has been boiled. With a perfectly clean cloth or a wad of absorbent cotton bathe the lids with this solution and drop a few drops in the eye three times a day."

State Health Commissioner Dixon has also requested the department's medical inspector in every county in the state to assist the health officers in the discharge of the duty assigned them. A letter has also been written to the secretary of every city, borough

and first class township board of health in Pennsylvania, calling their attention to the law and urging that these boards adopt such measures as will lead to its early enforcement in the municipality under the local board's jurisdiction. The wording of the act of June 23, 1895, is as follows:  
**The Law.**  
 "Whereas, Statistics compiled in this country and Europe demonstrate that fully 25 per centum of the blind owe

their affliction to an inflammation of the conjunctive appearing a few days after birth; and  
 "Whereas, Experience has proved that the inflammation can be cured and the eyesight saved in the majority of cases if treatment be instituted at an early state of the disease; and  
 "Whereas, Destruction of the eyes and blindness are usually the result of delay of treatment.

"Section 1. Be it enacted, etc. That should one or both eyes of an infant become inflamed or swollen or reddened at any time within two weeks after birth, it shall be the duty of the midwife or nurse, or other person having the care of such infant, to report in writing, within six hours after the discovery thereof, to the health officer or legally qualified practitioner of the city, town or district in which the mother of the child resides, the fact that such inflammation or swelling or redness exists.  
 "Section 2. That it shall be the duty of said health officer, immediately upon receipt of said written report, to notify the parents or the person having charge of said infant of the danger to the eye or eyes of said infant by reason of said condition from neglect of proper treatment of the same, and he shall also enclose to them directions for the proper treatment thereof.  
 "Section 3. Every health officer shall furnish a copy of this act to each person who is known to him to act as midwife or nurse in the city or town for which such health officer is appointed, and the secretary of state shall cause a sufficient number of copies of this act to be printed and supply the same to such health officers on application.  
 "Section 4. Any failure to comply with the provisions of this act shall be punishable by fine not to exceed \$200, or imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or both."

**Remedy For Bad Roads.**  
 The remedy for bad roads, it seems to me, lies wholly with the men who own property along them. Elect no man to the position of overseer who does not understand how to make good roads out of poor ones. If there is no such man in your neighborhood, hire one from outside. This is, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, the wisest thing to do, for the chances are that there is no man in the neighborhood who has had practical experience enough to make it safe to trust the work to him, says Eben E. Rexford in the Oiling Magazine for June. He may have good sense, good judgment and all that—in short, there may be the making of a good road builder in him—but what you need is a man who is a good road builder, a man who has got the trade already learned. In other words, you can't afford to wait for home talent to develop if the man who has developed his ability in that direction is procurable. Have your road tax paid in cash. Secure a skilled man, and let him assume responsibility for the work he undertakes. If you do this, you stand in a fair way to solve the problem of good roads.

The grange located at Swanzy, N. H., recently had a novel meeting. The admission was 7 cents, and every seventh person was admitted free. Seven "old ladies from Lavender town" sang seven old time songs. There were tableaux and recitations.

Nearly every grange in New Hampshire has purchased a flag for its hall, as a vote passed at the last annual session of the state grange requested.

### YELLOW JACKET SAYINGS.

Wanted—a leader for Miss Democracy. She's splashing about and still a-bunting, but nothing in sight yet.

Call them what you please, but the Democratic platforms all stand for free trade and free soup. You can't rub that out.

There are two sides to Democracy. There is the pie side for the politicians and the soup side for the suckers. Where are you "at?"

The Democratic and Republican parties are both levelers, but they work differently. Republicanism levels things up and Democracy levels them down.

Here's an appropriate plank for the next Democratic national platform: Resolved, that we are stuck up in the blue mud of political pollution, and we don't give a darn who knows it.

Lots of those who are eternally worrying somebody with platitudes about the "eternal principles" of the Democratic party couldn't furnish a list of these "eternal principles" to save their necks.

If what the Clevelandites and the Bryanites are saying about each other is true there is no Democratic party these days, but the old thing has gone to seed and the seed have rotted. And it almost looks like it.

What is hurting many Democrats more than anything else is that they can't point to a Democratic administration that ever gave the country such prosperity as the Republicans are doing. No wonder they are worried.

## Short Talks on Advertising By Charles Austin Bates.

No. 19.

People generally read advertisements more than they did a few years ago. The reason is to be found in the advertisements themselves. Advertisers are more careful than they used to be. They make the advertisements more readable. Some of them even become, in a way, a department of the paper, and people look for them every day with as much zest and pleasure as they turn to any other feature.

This is true of many department stores all over the country. In many cities there is just one man who appreciates the value of such interest. He breaks away from the old set style. He tells something interesting in his space every day.

There are lots of interesting things in business. Look over the miscellany page of any paper—look at its local news columns, and its telegraph news, for that matter, and you'll see that the majority of the items are more or less closely related to some business fact.

Dress these facts up in a becoming garb of words, and they will find readers, even though they be in a "mere advertisement." Let the merchant come down off his pedestal and talk in his ads.

He needn't be flippant—far from it, but let him not write as if he were addressing somebody afar off, and telling him about something at even a greater distance.

The newspaper goes right into its reader's house—goes in and sits down with him.

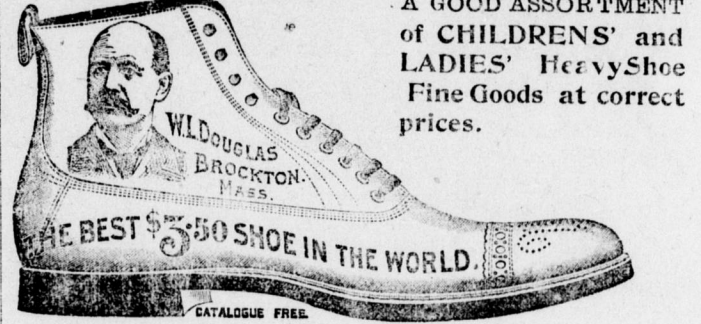
It is on the table when he eats, and in his hands while he is smoking after the meal. It reaches him when he is in an approachable condition.

That's the time to tell him about your business—clearly, plainly, convincingly—as one man talks to another.

"Let the merchant come down off his pedestal."  
 "The newspaper goes right into its reader's house and sits down with him."  
 Copyright, Charles Austin Bates, New York.

Cultivate the Habit of buying reputable goods from a reputable concern.

We are agents for W. L. DOUGLASS SHOES from 2.50 to 5.00 per pair. Wood School Shoes for boys has no equal. Trays Shoes for farms are, we find, always satisfactory.



**Clothing Made to Order**  
 All have the right appearance and guaranteed outst in both material and workmanship and price mte.

We also manufacture Feed, the Flag Brand. It is not cheap, but good. Is correctly made. Ask your dealer for it or write us for prices.

**NORDMONT SUPPLY Co.**  
 General Merchants, PROPRIETORS NORDMONT STEAM MILL  
 NORDMONT, PA.

## WINCHESTER

"NEW RIVAL"  
 FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS

No black powder shells on the market compare with the "NEW RIVAL" in uniformity and strong shooting qualities. Are fire and waterproof. Get the genuine.

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO. New Haven, Conn.

# J. M. WIGHTON, MUNCY VALLEY, PA.

50 and 75 Boys' Knee Pants Heavy weight Assorted style Special.

Never Before Have We Received so many praises and heard so many flattering remarks as we have had this Season.

Were you one of the vast throngs that crowded our store during the past week? Did you get your share of the articles advertised? If not you should

## COME HERE NOW

We are making new friends fast: selling more goods than ever before

But we still want more friends, want to sell our stock faster, yet we are spurred on to deeper price cutting. People wonder how we can do it. To this we can answer, that no other store in the section has the wholesale buying facilities enjoyed by this establishment. We can buy lower, we can sell lower.

**Sweater Coats**  
 Men's, or Boys' Sweater Coats .38  
 Mens sweater coats .75  
 Mens sweater coats 1.25  
 Mens sweater coats 1.50  
 Mens sweater coats 2.00  
 Mens V neck sweaters 25 and 46c  
 Mens cardigan jackets 1.25

**Underwear**  
 Boys Shirts or Drawers ribbed or fleeced 20 and 26c  
 Men's ribbed underwear all colors 39c  
 Men's fleeced lined underwear all colors 39c

**Boys Corduroy Pants.**  
 Boys' corduroy knee pants, lined throughout, fine ribbed quality worth regular 75c Special 39c

**Men's Suits**  
 Men's Suits 4.65  
 Men's Suits 6.75  
 Mens Suits 8.50  
 Mens Suits 9.45 10.50  
 Mens Suits 11.75 14.50  
 Mens Suits 15.50 16.25

**Specials Men's Corduroy Pants**  
 From 1.19 to 2.50

**CHILDREN'S SUITS**  
 From 93c to 1.50 and 5.50

**MEN'S TROUSERS**  
 From 69c to \$4.75.

**MEN'S OVERALLS.**  
 From 39c to 75c

**MEN'S ODD COATS**

All Prices Ducth and Corduroy All Prices 85c to 2.25

## SHOES

Also big line of Shoes at saving prices \$1.65 for 2.50 Dress Shoe. Ladies' 1.65 shoes for 1.09 Men's Working Shoes 1.65 W. L. Douglas Shoes at reduced prices.

**Big Line of Men's and Children's Overcoats at reduced prices.**



"Blumenthal Clothing" MADE BY BLUMENTHAL BROTHERS & CO. New York - Philadelphia

**Men's Shirts**  
 Men's Neglige Shirts 39c  
 Men's Work Shirts 39c  
 Men's Flannel Shirts 85c  
 Richy Flannel overshirts 1.39

Men's extra heavy cotton mixed socks 08c  
 Men's all wool socks 19s  
 Boys and Girls Stockings 09c  
 Ladies' Hose 09c  
 Ladies' Facinators 19c

Also big line men's lumbermen rubbers—Lambertville and Ball Band. A big saving for you.

Men's Caps 19c  
 Boys' Caps 19c  
 Ladies' FURS at great reduction.

BED BLANKETS from 75c up.  
 FRUNKS all sizes from 1.50 up.

**Ladies' Sweaters**  
 Ladies' Sweaters all colors 99c  
 Ladies' Waists, blue, black, 39c

**Ladies' Coats**  
 Ladies' Coats from 3.50 to 12.00

## S-DROPS

TRADE MARK

### CURES

**RHEUMATISM  
 LUMBAGO, SCIATICA  
 NEURALGIA and  
 KIDNEY TROUBLE**

"S-DROPS" taken internally, rids the blood of the poisonous matter and acids which are the direct causes of these diseases. Applied externally it affords almost instant relief from pain, while a permanent cure is being effected by purifying the blood, dissolving the poisonous substance and removing it from the system.

**DR. S. D. BLAND**  
 Of Brewton, Ga., writes:  
 "I had been a sufferer for a number of years with Lumbago and Rheumatism in my arms and legs, and tried all the remedies that I could gather from medical works, and also consulted with a number of the best physicians, but found nothing that gave the relief obtained from 'S-DROPS.' I shall present it in my practice for rheumatism and kindred diseases."

## FREE

If you are suffering with Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Kidney Trouble or any kindred disease, write to us for a trial bottle of "S-DROPS," and test it yourself.  
 "S-DROPS" can be used any length of time without acquiring a "drug habit," as it is entirely free of opium, cocaine, alcohol, laudanum, and other similar ingredients.

Large Size Bottle, "S-DROPS" (500 Doses) 61.00. For Sale by Druggists.

**SWANSON RHEUMATISM CURE COMPANY,**  
 Dept. 20, 160 Lake Street, Chicago.

## PATENTS

CAVEATS, TRADE MARKS, COPYRIGHTS AND DESIGNS.

Send your business direct to Washington, saves time, costs less, better service.

My office close to U. S. Patent Office. FREE preliminary examination made. Att'y fee not due until patent is secured. PERSONAL ATTENTION GIVEN—10 YEARS ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. Book "How to Obtain Patents," etc., sent free. Patents procured through E. G. Siggers receive special notice, without charge, in the

## INVENTIVE AGE

Published monthly—Eleventh year—\$1.50 per year. Late of C. A. Snow & Co., 918 F St., N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

We promptly obtain U. S. and Foreign

## PATENTS

Send model, sketch or photo of invention for free report on patentability. For free book "How to Secure TRADE-MARKS" write patents and

## CASNOW & CO.

Opposite U. S. Patent Office  
 WASHINGTON D. C.

So Come to J. M. Wighton's to satisfy your wants. Remember sale only lasts this month. Railroad fare from Laporte and Nordmont for purchase of \$10.00 or over.